

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 2, January 2010

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African American History Month 2010



Black (African-American) History Month: February 2010

To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926.

For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. Each year, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month.

Please find more resources on African American History Month:

Obama's Proclamation on National African American History Month

President highlights initiatives to expand opportunities for all Americans
February 02, 2010

Read more: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month>

Exploring Black History Month

Black History Month celebrates the work of Americans such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, Sojourner Truth, Marian Anderson and Jackie Robinson.
Link: <http://www.america.gov/amlife/people.html>

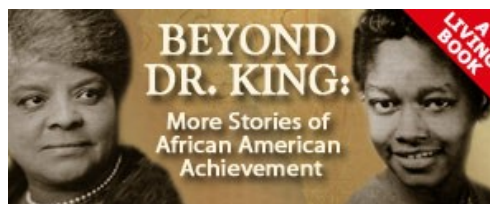
African American History Month from Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

Link: <http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>

Notable African American

http://www.america.gov/notable_african_americans.html



Did You Know?



Thurgood Marshall stands as one of the great American heroes of the 20th century: He was the attorney who ended legal segregation in the United States with his victory in the Brown v. Board of Education case, and the U.S. Supreme Court justice who championed expanded rights for every individual American -- minorities, women, and immigrants, among many others. More on Thurgood Marshall is available at: <http://www.america.gov/publications/books/justice-for-all-legacy-of-thurgood-marshall.html>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

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ARTICLE ALERT

Obama's State of the Union Address

27 January 2010

President outlines domestic, international priorities for 2010

Washington — There must be continued American leadership to halt the spread of nuclear weapons, develop clean energy and advance human dignity throughout the world, President Obama says, restating his commitment to global engagement.

Speaking January 27 in his first State of the Union address, Obama told U.S. lawmakers, Cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, U.S. military officers and the American people that the United States is leading through engagement to advance "the common security and prosperity of all people."

For more details on Obama's State of the Union Address, please visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2010-state-union-address>

Transcript:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-state-union-address>

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Plattner, Marc F. **POPULISM, PLURALISM, AND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY** (Journal of Democracy, January 2010, Volume 21, Number 1, page 81-92)

Marc F. Plattner is founding coeditor of the Journal of Democracy and director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy. He writes that in recent years, scholars have begun to focus on the sources of "authoritarian resilience." But democracy has also shown surprising resilience, in part because the disorders to which it is prone tend to counteract each other. Currently available at:
<http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/gratis/Plattner-21-1.pdf>

2. Quittner, Josh **THE FUTURE OF READING** (Fortune, February 11, 2010, page 34-46)

Magazines, books, newspapers -- all that printed stuff is supposed to be dying. Advertising pages, which have been steadily declining, dropped 26% in 2009 alone. But here, surely, was some evidence that publishing might have

a chance. If an adolescent who otherwise spends every waking hour on a laptop still craves the printed word, then maybe, just maybe, there's a little new growth left in old media. Currently available at http://money.cnn.com/2010/02/09/technology/tablet_ebooks_media.fortune/index.htm

3. Ripley, Amanda **WHAT MAKES A GREAT TEACHER?** (The Atlantic Monthly. Boston: Jan/Feb 2010. Vol. 305, Iss. 1; pg. 58, 8 pgs)

For years, the secrets to great teaching have seemed more like alchemy than science, a mix of motivational mumbo jumbo and misty-eyed tales of inspiration and dedication. But for more than a decade, one organization has been tracking hundreds of thousands of kids, and looking at why some teachers can move them three grade levels ahead in a year and others can't. Now, as the Obama administration offers states more than \$4 billion to identify and cultivate effective teachers, Teach for America is ready to release its data. Available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/201001/good-teaching>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

4. Greenberg, Maurice R. **RESCUING AMERICAN CAPITALISM** (National Interest, January/February 2010)

THE CURRENT crisis in the financial system was well over a decade in the making. A combination of new incentives to increase home ownership, long-term low interest rates, the taking on of increased leverage by banks, and the crea-

tion of financial products that were not properly overseen or managed led to a catastrophic economic meltdown. The question now is can we learn from this and also prevent what ended up being a disastrous handling of the crisis itself from happening again. Currently available online at <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=22594>

FOREIGN POLICY

5. Brzezinski, Zbigniew **FROM HOPE TO AUDACITY** (Foreign Affairs, January/February 2010)

Brzezinski was U.S. National Security Adviser from 1977 to 1981 and wrote that Barack Obama's foreign policy has generated more

expectations than strategic breakthroughs. Three urgent issues -- the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran's nuclear ambitions, and the Afghan-Pakistani challenge -- will test his ability to significantly change U.S. policy.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

6. Berlin, Ira **THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN** (Smithsonian. Washington: Feb 2010. Vol. 40, Iss. 11; pg. 80, 7 pgs)

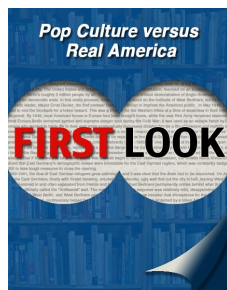
Much of the collective consciousness of black people in mainland North America- the belief of individual men and women that their own fate was linked to that of the group- has long been articulated through a common history indeed a particular history: centuries of enslavement, freedom in the course of the Civil War, a great promise made amid the political turmoil of Reconstruction and a great promise broken, followed by disfranchisement, segregation and, finally, the long struggle for equality. According to the 1960 census, their percentage of the population was to the right of the decimal point. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-Changing-Definition-of-African-American.html>

7. Zax, David **PICTURE OF PROSPERITY** (Smithsonian. Washington: Feb 2010. Vol. 40, Iss. 11; pg. 42, 3 pgs)



For more than half a century the Scurlock Studio chronicled the rise of Washington's black middle class. A Scurlock camera was "present at almost every significant event in the African-American community," recalls former D.C. Councilwoman Charlene Drew Jarvis, whose father, Howard University physician Charles Drew, was a Scurlock subject many times. Dashing all over town—to baptisms and weddings, to balls and cotillions, to high-school graduations and to countless events at Howard, where he was the official photographer—Addison Scurlock became black Washington's "photographic Boswell—the keeper of the visual memory of the community in all its quotidian ordinariness and occasional flashes of grandeur and moment," says Jeffrey Fearing, a historian who is also a Scurlock relative. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/The-Scurlock-Studio-Picture-of-Prosperity.html?c=y&page=1>

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS



POP CULTURE VERSUS REAL AMERICA

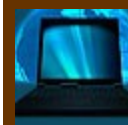
U.S. television and cinema promote images of Americans that are ... well ... wrong! Pop Culture versus Real America will contrast those pop culture images with profiles of real Americans in every walk of life. Look here soon for the entire book. For now, this First Look edition includes the introduction and two chapters: Baywatch / Real Lifeguards and Grey's Anatomy / Real Doctor. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/pop-culture-vs-real-america.html>

MORE THAN ELECTIONS: HOW DEMOCRACIES TRANSFER POWER

Democracy requires more than holding elections. Healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build. This eJournal USA explores the contours of civil society and political legitimacy within which peaceful transitions of power can occur. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0110.html>



RESOURCES TO CYBERSECURITY



Cyber intruders probe for access to critical infrastructures

worldwide, but public-private cooperation, international engagement will help refine defenses.

Global Cyberattacks

Cyberattacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated and serious.

Link:

http://photos.america.gov/maps/amgov/30145/world_regions_cybersecurity.jpg/#popup

Improving Cybersecurity

America.gov posed three cybersecurity questions to private sector executives.

Link:

<http://photos.america.gov/maps/amgov/133183/cybersecurityinfocus/#popup>

Link to Glossary of Key Cybersecurity Terms:

<http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-eng-lish/2009/September/20090917175715sjhtrop0.2718012.html>

Link to more details on Cybersecurity

<http://www.america.gov/cybersecurity.html>

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7. () PICTURE OF PROSPERITY

New eJournal USA

- () POP CULTURE VERSUS REAL AMERICA
- () MORE THAN ELECTIONS: HOW DEMOCRACIES TRANSFER POWER



President Obama and Family to Visit Indonesia in March

President Obama and his family will make a state visit to Indonesia in the second half of March 2010, according to a White House announcement. This trip is an important part of the President's continued effort to broaden and strengthen the partnerships that are necessary to advance our security and prosperity. Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country, the third largest democracy; is home to the largest Muslim population in the world; and an important partner in the G20.

See press release at:

http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/press_rel/Jan10/obama_visit.html